

Way-y-y-y-y beyond Description!

This activity gives students an opportunity to examine themselves and showcase the aspects of themselves which they value.

Teacher Preparation:

1. Have a thesaurus for each student.
2. Adjust instructions as needed. For example, the number of adjectives can be reduced for young students.
3. Make a copy of the handout (4-3-2) for each student.

Lesson Plan:

1. Introduce the activity and distribute the materials.
2. Allow a large amount of work time for this activity.
3. The culminating activity should be a presentation from each student about any aspect of the assignment that he or she chooses to elaborate on.

Adapted from Meeting the Intellectual and Emotional Needs of Gifted Children in a School Setting, presented by Dr. James R. Delisle to the Academically Gifted Department of the Wake County Public School System on November 15, 2007.

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We know, we know – you are unique. No one in the world who has ever lived is exactly like you and, until cloning becomes popular, that is the way it will be.

But there are qualities that each of us has that others share – athletic, kind-hearted, thoughtful, spirited – and maybe some that are truly individual to you – perspicacious, pedantic, or idiosyncratic (look them up). In fact, if you try real hard, we bet you can come up with 100 adjectives that describe the person you are.

... And that, dear students, will be the **first** of your three tasks to complete this assignment: finding 100 adjectives that describe who you are, and listing them alphabetically for all to see (try to locate some words that no one knows – like perspicacious – as long as you learn what they mean!).

But, as you know, you have become the person you are thanks to others with whom you have come into contact – family, friends, teachers, strangers, even book characters! So, your **second** task is to complete a short essay (one page or so, double spaced) describing both an individual and an incident that has made you the person you are – in effect, that explains the adjectives you chose to describe yourself.

Then comes the most revealing, creative, and interpretive part: for your **third** activity you are going to take all 100 adjectives (or as many as you can fit) and create an illustration using only these adjectives that is connected, somehow, with the essay you just wrote (you are using the words, in all directions, as lines and shading in your drawing). Perhaps it will be the image of a tree, because the person whom you wrote about shared her love of nature with you. Maybe it will be a spiral, as the person you wrote about enters and re-enters your life occasionally and always teaches you something about yourself. Or, maybe the illustration will be a box of crayons, because the person you wrote about was in your life as a little kid and gave you some wisdom that you still possess today. Whatever ... No drawing is wrong, because, after all, this is your life we're talking about.

Think deep, find some big words in a thesaurus or dictionary, and start revealing your life! Have a good trip!

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